

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application.

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 6, 2006. Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 24-27 are allowed. Claims 28-30 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 7, 12, 13 and 20 are rejected and claims 2-6, 8-11, 14-19 and 21-23 are objected to. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 16-20 have been amended and claim 15 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7, 12 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Silverbrook (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0051935 A1, hereinafter "Silverbrook"). The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook as applied to claim 1 above.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable.

Claim 20

Silverbrook fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, as claimed in claim 20:

“decoupling the wafer and the substrate by thermally destructing the sacrificial layer.”

Silverbrook is directed to a method of separating MEMS devices from a composite structure.

Silverbrook does not disclose decoupling the wafer and the substrate by decomposing the sacrificial layer. Instead, in Silberbrook the wafer and the substrate are decoupled by curing the adhesive with UV light, as shown in Figures 6-8 of Silberbrook. After the wafer and the substrate are decoupled, the sacrificial layer is later removed.

In contrast, in embodiments of the presently claimed invention, the wafer and the substrate are decoupled by decomposing the sacrificial layer. As explained in the present specification, since the sacrificial material decomposes, the support substrate can be detached with a smaller force than otherwise required.

Thus, Silverbrook fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 20. Claims 2-14, 16-19 and 21-23 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the foregoing independent claims. Applicants,

accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103.

Objections to the claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 2-6, 8-11, 14-19 and 21-33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner's indicated allowability of claims 2-6, 8-11, 14-19 and 21-33 is noted with appreciation. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15.

Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

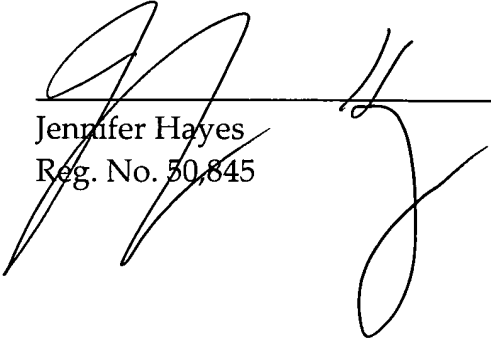
The Examiner's allowance of claims 24-27 is noted with appreciation.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Jennifer Hayes at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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